

MAY 02 2008

Serial No. 10/822,079

REMARKS

Applicant has deleted the words "open reinforcing members" from the preamble to avoid confusion. These reinforcement members are different from those included in the body of the claim. The "open reinforcing members" are commonly used and they were described in Berger's patent No. 6,062,293 as members 50. They may or may not be used with the present invention if additional reinforcement is desired. But, the degree of reinforcement achieved with the present invention is intended to do away with these unattractive "open reinforcing members" even though the structure in the present invention does not interfere with its use.

With respect to Sections 102 and 103, the differences between the claimed invention and the main reference of Leist are intended to support applicant's argument for both. The lack of anticipating novelty bar is clear from the fact that Leist's patent discloses:

1. A non-unitary telescopically arrangement and interrupted pieces (32; 38) that fail to provide the structural integrity that is required to pass the pertinent high wind tests. Not having a continuous unitary reinforcement member compromises the rigidity of the garage door.

2. The location of the reinforcement in Leist is outside the folded ends of the panels, which are the most vulnerable portions of the doors. Members 32; 38 in Leist are placed a considerable distance away from these articulation folds. So, even if the discrete "telescopic" reinforcement pieces

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disclosed are to be interpreted as equivalent to the unitary reinforcement member, their location makes them ineffective to protect the articulations.

3. Lastly, the conforming characteristics to the folded articulations is not even suggested by Leist. Berger's patent, on the other hand, included a unitary piece in the folded area but it was this precise finding of conforming the reinforcement member to the interior of the articulations or joints.

10 ... a plurality of longitudinal unitary reinforcement members insertable horizontally and interiorly of the complementing joints...
... and having conforming longitudinal portions...

15 It is the unexpected result experienced by conforming the reinforcement members that permits the Applicant to manufacture his reinforced garage doors with a minimum of weight and cost. In the roll forming industry, the sheets of metal have a uniform gauge. So, it would not be possible to form portions of the folds with thicker material. The effect of the conforming longitudinal portions of the reinforcement
20 members that come in abutting longitudinal contact with the joints is equivalent to using thicker (stronger) material in selective places (vulnerable joints).

25 This has not been taught or suggested in the cited references, taken singly or in combination. Not even the Applicant suspected that this change in the configuration and cooperation of his reinforcement member would have such an effect.

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Respectfully submitted,

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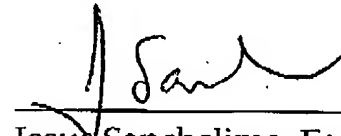
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